Snap-on Labeling System for High-density Patch Panels

Daniel Underbrink, Charles Bragg

Abstract: A Snap-on Labeling System has been developed which allows users to custom-label high-density patch panels with site-specific information

Standard-density data patch panels typically provide 24 data ports in a single 1.75-inch rack unit (RU) space and are usually provided with areas or features which allow users to customize labeling for the panel. High density panels provide a very-desirable 48 data ports in the same 1RU space, but since virtually all of the panel front is used to accommodate the 48 ports, provisions for custom labeling those ports are typically eliminated.

To address the lack of a labeling provision on high-density panels, a Snap-on Labeling System has been developed which will allow users the same sort of labeling freedom that they experience with standard-density patch panel products.

A kit of one or more structural overlays allows the user to label up to all 48 ports of high density shielded or unshielded patch panels, in either flat or angled panel formats. The overlays positively snap onto the upper and lower edges of the patch panel and provide labeling areas which will accommodate self-adhesive, machine-generated labels, as required by industry standards. Part of the design includes stiffening ribs which also serve to enable the user to apply the labels in a straight and level fashion.

Figure 1. shows a portion of an angled high-density patch panel, with jacks installed in two of the ports prior to snapping on the overlay.

Figure 1.

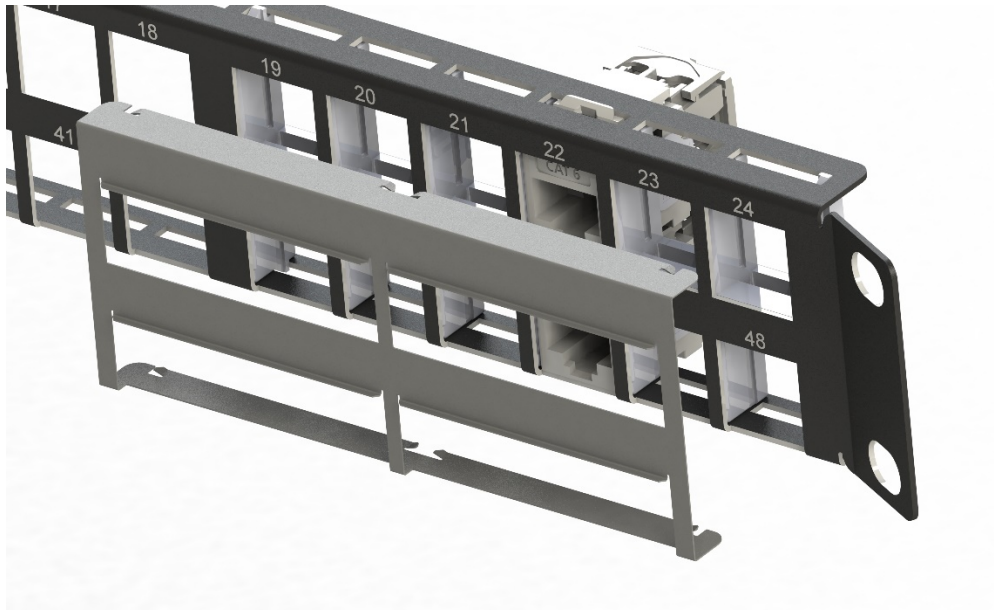Figure 2. shows the same panel section with the overlay ready to snap on.

Figure 2.

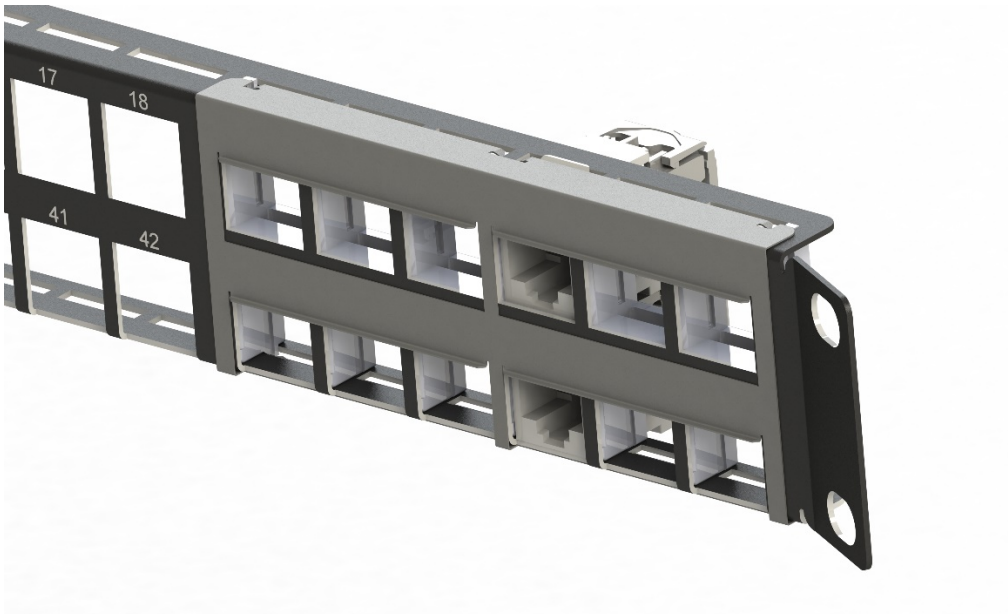Figure 3. shows the same panel section with the overlay installed.

Figure 3.

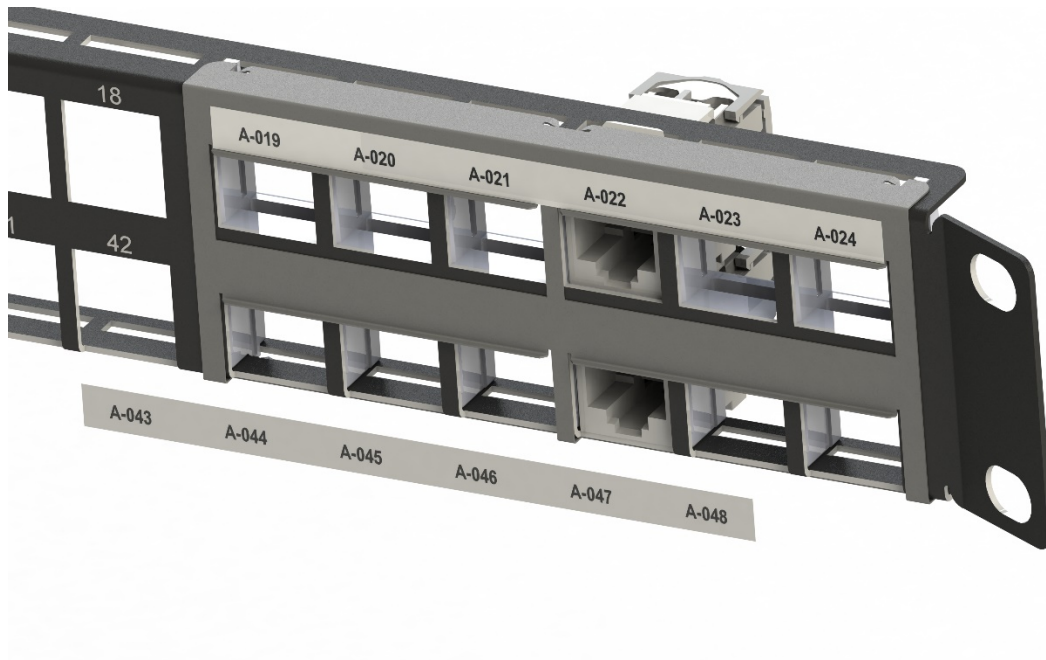Figure 4. shows typical custom port labeling and a custom label applied to the overlay.

Figure 4.

Figure 5. shows detail of one of the stiffening ribs being used for straight and level alignment of a machine-printed, self-adhesive custom label.

Figure 5.

Figure 6. shows the components disassembled.

Figure 6.